GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1244
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
CHILD MARRIAGE
CHADA SURESH REDDY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has demanded that strict action should be taken in the cases involving child marriage;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to launch a campaign against child marriage through out the country so that this mal-practice is checked;

(c) if so, whether compulsory marriage registration will be enforced in the country to curb child marriages; and

(d) if so, the other details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b) National Commission for Women (NCW)has informed that it has organised an awareness campaign against child marriage in certain selected States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c)&(d) Para 6.3 of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001 states that registration of marriages would be made compulsory. However, the legislative provision is as under:

Registration of marriages solemnized or contracted under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872,the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954is compulsory. Section 8 of the Hindu MarriageAct, 1955 provides that if the State Government is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient to do so, it may provide that the entering of the particulars of Hindu marriages in the Hindu marriage register shall be compulsory in the State orin any part thereof, whether in all cases or in such cases as may be specified. Certain State Governments, namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka haveState Acts providing for compulsory registration of marriages in those States. Registration of marriages solemnized otherwise than under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is permissible under Section 16 of the said Act if such marriages fulfill certain conditions as laid down under Chapter IIIof that Act. The question of making registration of Hindu Marriages compulsorycould also be considered by the State Governments as per the local situations prevailing in those States.